a Natinal Agricultural Technology Project with assistance from World Bank;

(b) if so, the details of this project; and

(c) the schedule of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Department of Agriculture, Govt. of India are jointly preparing a National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) with World Bank assistance to:

— stgrenthen national capacity in research and extension management, policy planning, priority setting, monitoring and evaluation to meet current and emerging needs of agricultural development;

— strengthen and/or establish infrastructural and institutional supports to ensure adequate facilities for undertaking desired research and technology development activities;

— foster linkage mechanisms (i) between research, extension and client groups, (ii) between technology and development oriented departments, programme, institutions (including NGOs), (iii) between public and private sector initiatives in technology generation, assessment, refinement and transfer, and (iv) to introduce innovative means to share research and extension costs and responsibilities;

— maximize nation's capacity to effectively benefit from biotechnology and advances in other agro-biological sciences in a global context and develop first-rate international retrieval and dissemination mechanisms and systems;

— develop human resource, particularly in the frontier areas of science and technology, management skill and technology assessment; and

— formulate and initiate research and technology development based on programme and matrix approach in priority areas using systems concept so that the over all efficiency of the NARS is improved.

(c) The NATP concept paper has been accepted by the World Bank. Based on the concept, project documents are being formulated. The project is expected to be launched by June, 1996.

Destruction of Virus Infected Shimps in Andhra Pradesh

5636. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Rs. 300 crores worth virus infected shrimps from aquafarms in Andhra Pradesh was destroyed in 1994-95;

(b) if so, whether any assistance will be given to smaller units to offset such losses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) There has been some loss of shrimp production due to disease in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh during 1994-95, the value of which is reported to be over Rs.70 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Reorientation of Agricultural Education System

5637. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need to reorient Agricultural Education System in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have